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Home opener for both soccer teams this Saturday / 12

LAMBDA

Serving the Laurentian community since 1961

L.U. hosts Bluesfest



Kris Harris / LAMBDA

While many of you were gone home for the summer, The Tragically Hip dropped by the Laurentian University campus and performed as a part of Sudbury Bluesfest. The Hip played an excellent, one-and-a-half hour show, including two encores. Other notable performers at Sudbury Bluesfest included Blue Rodeo and Sonny Landreth. The event, held at the University track between July 23-25, was considered a huge success by both organizers and music fans alike.

Finger Eleven to play Welcome Back Concert

BY DEBBIE SAUVE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Another school year has fallen upon us, which means that another Welcome Back Concert is gearing up to rock LU.

Next weekend the SGA will bring you a can't miss event featuring the popular Canadian band, Finger Eleven.

The band is scheduled to play at the concert, which will be held on Saturday September 16 in the Great Hall at 9 pm.

"I think that this is going to prove to be the most successful concert that we have had in the past three or four years, because this band will target a more diverse group of music fans," Jessica Burnie, vice president of Student Services said.

Over the past couple of years, the SGA has brought great bands like Chaos and Swollen Members to Laurentian, and this year is no exception.

In the first week of May the planning began and the association started looking at what kind of band they would like to bring in. It was decided early on that they wanted a headliner outside of the Hip Hop genre and get a little more into the rock/alternative scene.

"Finger Eleven played at Laurentian three years ago, and they did a really great job," Burnie explained. "We knew that they had that different edge than the hip hop band, had the music on the radio, and they were known well enough that people would enjoy coming to see them."

It was also felt that with this group playing, a more diverse crowd might come to see the show.

"Finger Eleven has both a following from their stuff that is popular right now, as well as from the older stuff when they were called the Rainbow Buttmonkeys," Burnie said. "This combination should bring in a very diverse crowd of music-lovers."

The band is making a stop at the university as a part of their North American tour to promote their new self-titled album.

The new album, which took 18 months to create, will feature 12 songs, although 30 were created to choose from. According to Scott Anderson, the vocalist for the band, the album took so long to create because practice makes perfect.

"We wanted to make sure we got it right," Anderson said. "Everyday for 18 months we wrote and rehearsed and pieced together demos."

If you check it the artwork on the album cover, note that it was conceived by guitarist James Black, and features artwork that was pieced together with digital photos taken over the course of the band's two-year writing period.

The band itself is from Burlington, Ontario and most of the members have known each other since high school. The members include Anderson for vocals, Black and Rick Jackett on guitar, Sean Anderson on bass, and Rick Beddoe on drums.

If you are interested in checking them out next Saturday, Burnie reminds you to get your tickets in advance because they expect to sell-out, with only 500 tickets available. However, if tickets are not sold out, the remainder will be sold at the door the night of the concert.

"I think that we will sell-out for this concert, no problem," Burnie said. "I think people are ready to move away from the hip hop concerts that we have been seeing."

For students looking to create a little rock of their own, the SGA will be holding Rockstar Karaoke this Saturday in the Great Hall from 8 to 11 pm.

"We are hosting this event because we are both looking at having karaoke in the pub this year and offering an event during frosh week that everyone can attend," Burnie said. "Rockstar Karaoke is not just for first-year students but for returning students as well, so they feel like they are having a frosh week again."

Both events are for all-ages and will feature a Beer Gardens for those 19 plus.

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Include your full name and student number. Please keep articles to a maximum of 700 words. Lambda reserves the right to edit for content considered sexist, racist, homophobic, heterosexist or for length. Letters of harrasing or slandersous manner will be dealth with by the proper authorities.

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Please e-mail submissions to lambda@laurentian.ca. Ensure the attached file is saved as TEXT or Word, because we cannot transfer other files to Mac format. To be considered for print, all submissions must have your name and student number

EDITOR'S CORNER

Orientation: changing and saving face

EDITORIAL



BY DEBBIE SAUVE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Frosh week, initiation, Orientation: the welcoming of students to university-life has been called many things over the years.

However, the meaning of this yearly ritual has evolved with the times as well, or so administration would like to think anyway.

Several years ago, Laurentian made the move to change what was previously known as Frosh Week to Orientation.

This move was made because the former name, so it was thought, held the connotation of alcohol, partying and hazing. On the other hand, the new name is supposed signify welcoming and to help students make the transition into the post-secondary world a little bit easier.

However, call it what you may, I can't help but ask myself if it is even possible to avoid the marriage between frosh and partying?

For many students, university is the first escape from parental control, not to mention that OSAP has just dropped thousands in their bank accounts.

This right here, is the recipe for a good time or a university drop-out.

All you have to do is lis-

ten to rumours around the university, or take a walk through residence during the first week of school to realize that partying and initiation are still lingering aspects of orientation.

I have not personally been involved in these types of "welcoming ceremonies," but have heard the stories of students been drug around on leashes, students being dyed blue from head to toe, and of students being forced to chug oven-heated beer under the shower.

This doesn't sound like much of an easy transition to me.

But don't misunderstand me, I strongly believe and practice that sharing a couple of beers with fellow students is not only a good way to relieve some of the inherent pressures of university, but it is also a good way to meet and have fun with friends.

Students need to be able

to have a good time while in school. What appeal would university hold if it was all studying and books? Nonetheless, I don't think that you have to lower yourself with degrading frosh-practices to have fun.

But, all the same, make the most of the first couple of weeks of school. This is after all the best time of the year. The weather hasn't completely taken a turn for the worst yet, assignments and term paper deadlines are far away, and everyone has more time and finances on hand than we will for the remainder of the term.

So get out your events guide and get involved, but be forewarned. Although the university is trying to make the month of September jam-packed with one Orientation event after another to keep idle hands away from devil's play, off the clock, Frosh Week still lives.

Hollywood hits Laurentian

Letter from the desk of SGA President Cathy Carroll

Welcome frosh! And welcome back to all returning students! I hope you've all spent the summer gearing up for the upcoming year. The executive and staff here at the SGA/AGE have spent the summer planning and preparing for your arrival and we are very happy to have you back.

Frosh week is in full force, with many events having taken place, and many more to come. Come out to clean-up day this Friday at 1 pm at the pub patio. You can help make your school look beautiful and we'll even feed you!

I also encourage you all to attend Rockstar Karaoke in the Great Hall Saturday night starting at 8 pm. Come on out and sing us your favorite tunes and win some great prizes from Molson and the SGA/AGE. It is an all ages event with a beverage garden (wrist-band policy in effect, bring your I.D. and student card), then the pub will open after and the 19 plus crowd will be heading Down Under to continue on with the fun.

The SGA/AGE is proud to present Finger Eleven for this year's Welcome Back Concert! The stage is set for a great show to go off Thursday, September 16th. Get your tickets now in the SGA/AGE office because



Photo Supplied

The theme for the Students' General Association sponsored events for Orientation 2004 is "Hollywood Hits LU".

they're going fast!!!

Calling all frosh to come pick up your frosh kits in the SGA/AGE office now! The Vet/Returning student kits will be available starting Monday the 13th, so returning students can pick them up in the SGA/AGE office then.

As well, opt-out/in forms for the health plan are now available in the SGA/AGE office. You must bring proof of alternate coverage to complete the form.

I encourage all students to get involved to make the

most of your university experience. The SGA/AGE has over 40 clubs and surely one of them will be of interest to you! Clubs days are coming up on Wednesday the 15th and Thursday the 16th in the bowling alley. Stop by to check out all the clubs and see which one is right for you!

The SGA/AGE is once again placing emphasis on communication this year, so don't forget to let us know what we can do to help serve you better. You can stop by the office, e-mail us, or place

a suggestion in our comment box. We are your student union and we are here to serve you. So let us know what you think!

I wish you all the best of luck in the upcoming school year, study hard, but don't forget to have fun. Hope to see you out and about and remember to say hi!

Sincerely,

Cathy Carroll
SGA President
sgapresident@laurentian.ca

SPACE FOR RANT

The Mystery Columnist

Teachers, textbooks and ethics

A university education can be a wonderful thing. It can be a time of great learning, a time when bright, young minds can fully develop and achieve their full potential. These impressionable scholars try to fight their way through the bureaucratic bullshit and politically correct mumbo-jumbo to find some truth in their chosen field, as well as in life. But alas, sometimes it is a fight they cannot win.

One of the great travesties hampering the university system today is that university professors are allowed, if not encouraged, to write the textbooks for the classes they teach.

It is likely that some of you have encountered this same problem. You go to the bookstore to buy the text for one of your compulsory classes, only to discover that the author of the book is the professor who forced you to buy it. Not to mention the sticker-price on the thing of a hundred bucks or more.

Personally, if I have the author standing five feet away from me twice a week, I don't feel the need to shell out one hundred of my hard-earned dollars to own the soft-cover version of his or her belief system. I'll just ask what they think during the next scheduled class time.

Don't get me wrong. Some university professors (including some of the ones here at Laurentian) are brilliant experts in their field of study, and there is much to be learned from these exceptional minds.

But, no matter how much of an expert someone is, there is always someone who thinks a little differently. In fact, it's hard to find two people who feel the exact same way about anything. Exposing students to these different trains of thought would only further develop their own line of thinking on the subject.

Also, there is the distinct possibility, as horrible as it is to say, that a handful of these profs are only writing the texts for the monetary benefit; that is to say, some profs would not be trying to enlighten young minds, but would only be trying to supplement their incomes with a little fast cash.

Whatever the reason, the simple fact is that this practice is robbing students of other people's opinions. Professors who use their own books to teach their classes are only using one person's ideology, thus limiting a student's capacity for learning and decreasing the value of that student's education. It should be mandated across the province, if not the country, that professors cannot force students to buy the textbooks they themselves have written. They can rely on the writings of their colleagues to enhance their own opinions. Remember, an open mind is a terrible thing to waste.

Yes, a university education can be a wonderful thing. But, is it always?

-The Mystery Columnist is a Lambda contributor who wishes to remain nameless.

Volunteers needed for Annual Appeal

My name is Robert Bertrand, and I am a Psychology student here at Laurentian. Over the summer months, I have been working in the Development Office and I have learned a great deal about everything that goes on in this office.

The reason for Development is basically to develop relationships with students and alumni to give you the opportunity to help shape the future of Laurentian University.

Since I started working here, I've learned a lot about Development, but also more significantly I've learned the importance of maintaining relations with our alumni.

I have also been a part of the planning process for the Laurentian University Annual Appeal, which is what this article is about.

The 2004 Annual Appeal has just been launched, with a goal of 100% participation and a monetary goal of \$75,000. An annual appeal raises money on a yearly basis to enhance the educational experiences we provide to our current and future students.

Now, the reason I am

writing this article is to help encourage students to come and participate in this Appeal, by raising money for the school.

You are probably asking yourself, "How would I help raise money for the school?" Well, you can use a telephone.

The whole process will be as simple as picking up a phone, calling former students, updating them on the current life at Laurentian, and asking them to make a gift to the school.

Now before you get scared off of the whole "telemarketing" thing, let me be the first to tell you that these will not be hard sales calls.

You will be calling former students who went through exactly what we are going through at Laurentian. Sound easy? Oh, before I forget... yes, you will be paid for this, and you will earn \$8.50 an hour for this position.

The hours are Sunday through Thursday, from 6pm to 9pm, and there is a Sunday afternoon shift available as well. They are extremely flexible to student schedules, because school-

work comes first, so you can plan your hours accordingly.

So, if you want to make some money and enjoy conversations with Laurentian University alumni, in a great environment, then apply!

As students at Laurentian, you witness first-hand how gifts to the University benefit student life. One of the designations of this year's Annual Appeal is student financial assistance. Scholarships and bursaries are created through these gifts.

So, this has a direct impact on your experience here as a student. The great thing about the Annual Appeal is that you, the student, have the opportunity to help shape the future of Laurentian.

If you are interested please contact Tracy MacLeod, the Director of Development, in the Development Office in Room A121 (Bowling Alley, near Tim Horton's). She can also be reached by phone at 675-1151 ext. 3447, or by email at tmacleod@laurentian.ca

- Robert Bertrand

Blame Indiana

When I decided to participate in a cultural exchange to Ball State University in Indiana for my third-year through the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP), most people had the same question: how culturally different can the U.S. be from us?

And in all honesty, culturally, we are very alike because of our similar historical backgrounds. But while we may be into the same movies, music, and magazines, there are some; let me say, special characteristics of Americans that still have me dumbfounded.

Two characteristics in particular merit attention here: their ignorance of other cultures and their sense of community.

First, in regards to their ignorance, Americans do fit into this stereotype. You can imagine the difficulty in holding back laughter and contempt when I had to explain to one of my new floor-mates the day we met that not only the U.S. has a flag and national anthem, these features are shared by every other nation on the planet.

I thought it couldn't possibly get worse than this, but when justifications of their ignorance began with "but on this one South Park episode..." I began to think that maybe Canada should begin exporting some of our water southward because there was obviously something extremely hazardous contaminating theirs.

Despite their closed-mindedness, which in all fairness is in part a fault of their education system for not enforcing world studies, there is an unbelievable sense of pride and community.

While these characteristics may be irritating to outsiders at times, when you find yourself in the middle of it, it is truly inspiring. It is not just national pride; it's pride of state, community, and university, in a way I've never experienced.

Whether it's support for a football game, campus event, or civic parade, there

was always an impressive turn out of students, staff, and general citizens in full spiritual garb; the sense of camaraderie that radiated from these events was overwhelming in its ability to bring people together equally as we all stood together in support of a common cause.

It is easy and I admit it - inspiring - to get swept away in that all-American, stars and stripes experience.

Then again, thanks to questions like "So you don't know Jimmy, Sally or Suzy from Canada?" I didn't get so far off the ground that I forgot to shake my head at them for thinking Canadians have 24-hours of daylight and being surprised we don't have beady eyes and flappy heads.

So in the end, my loyalty certainly didn't switch over to the U.S. though I do understand a little more about their way of life.

Overall, I think the experience actually made me more Canadian. The International coordinator at Ball State told me the first day of living in a new country would make me love my country even more, and she was right.

Most Americans always asked about Canada, wanting to learn more about it, and by explaining differences between our countries I found myself really proud of the smallest things.

I was always enthusiastic about divulging information about Canada and soon I was a true advocate for northern emigration and perhaps slightly overzealous about cold weather, maple syrup, and Shania Twain.

All in all, my education in the U.S. occurred in more places than just the classroom. I learned about respecting different cultures and ways of life and also about my own country and my identity within it.

And if perhaps I look nostalgically back on metal detectors within schools and am less fervent about the use of "eh", well, I blame Indiana.

- Jessica Natale

We provide the space...you provide the rant

Space for Rant is here for you to rant about campus issues, about Lambda or to just get your opinion out there.

I want to hear what you think...the good, the bad and the ugly.

All you have to do is walk around the university to hear the never-ending muffled commentaries of students whispering about everything from tuition fees, to university administration, to the registrar horror stories that everyone seems to have.

Well, I think that it is time to stop the whispering in the hallways and express how you feel.

In Space for Rant, Lambda accepts Letters to the Editor and opinion pieces related to student life. The bottom line is that you've got opinions and we've got space, so let's fix this.

Please see the submission guidelines to right to find out how you can get a hold of us. This is your opportunity to let the university community know how

you feel.

As always, Lambda reserves the right to edit for errors and will not publish any materials that are of a malicious or slanderous nature.

Write away!

Letters to the Editor and opinion pieces can be sent to Lambda by e-mail, fax or mail.

Please make sure that you clearly include your name and student number with all submissions for office use.

Unless otherwise stated, Lambda will always publish the name of the author.

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CAMPUS NEWS

"It is becoming more difficult for university and college students to find affordable, suitable housing."

- James Pratt



Debbie Sauve / LAMBDA

Shown above is the Ledo hotel, located downtown Sudbury. This is one of the businesses that has taken part in the Student Village initiative in response to a lack of housing for students.

Housing in shortage for students

Thousands of students across the country are once again making the move away from home in the pursuit of a post-secondary education.

However, with more and more students than ever pursuing diplomas and undergraduate degrees, this annual migration means that higher numbers of students are seeking affordable housing, which is in short supply.

In Greater Sudbury alone, the apartment vacancy rate has dropped to 3.6 per cent, down from 11.1 per cent in 1999. In other words, there are less and less rental properties up for grabs, not to mention the apparent rise in rental rates themselves.

Nonetheless, this is not only a problem that plagues Sudbury. In fact, in several Ontario cities including, Ottawa, London, Oshawa, Kingston and Owen Sound, the vacancy rate is under three per cent, according to the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Corporation.

In a report, the ONPHC says 20 per cent of Ontarians now spend more than half their monthly earnings on housing. In their view, the province is not focusing enough on the affordable housing crisis in the province - a crisis that is affecting many university students.

In response to this and in an effort to facilitate the search for housing, the Canadian Federation of Students has part-

nered with Ecom Media Group Inc. to provide an online housing service: www.homes4students.ca.

"It is becoming more difficult for university and college students to find affordable, suitable housing," said James Pratt, spokesperson for the Canadian Federation of Students. "The Canadian Federation of Students launched an online housing service because it is the most effective way to assist students in their search."

Homes4Students is Canada's official registry for student housing listings. The site also includes a number of features to encourage landlords to take advantage of the new program including the ability for landlords to post a free trial listing.

"In the past, landlords had to contact each institution to make arrangements to have their property information posted on a bulletin board.

Payment often consisted of mailing a cheque or providing credit-card information over the phone," explained Pratt. "This process has been streamlined. Now landlords can create and manage not only their own account online, but their listing(s) as well."

The Federation hopes that this online registry will become yet another way they can help students across the country receive a quality post-secondary education.

NEWS BRIEFS

L.U. President honoured in China



JUDITH WOODSWORTH

Laurentian University President Judith Woodsworth will be a guest speaker at an international forum on female university presidents, to be held this September at Beijing Broadcasting University in China.

"You are an outstanding woman in the field of world higher education," said Professor Liu Ji Nan, president of Beijing Broadcasting University, in her invitation to Dr. Woodsworth.

"Clearly it is an honour to participate in this international gathering of women presidents," said Dr. Woodsworth. "I look forward to sharing ideas with my colleagues from universities around the world."

As part of preparations for the Female Presidents of Universities International Forum, a film crew from Beijing Broadcasting University came to Sudbury to interview Dr. Woodsworth and to feature Laurentian as part of a documentary.

"We look forward to welcoming our Chinese guests and familiarizing them with our quality programs at Laurentian, the beauty of our campus, and the Sudbury community at large," said Dr. Woodsworth. "Laurentian's international reputation continues to grow. The visit of this documentary crew is another opportunity to enhance our reputation abroad."

Last year Laurentian had 370 international students enrolled in its programs, with 66 per cent of them coming from China.

The film crew is developing a 12-part television documentary introducing a dozen outstanding female university presidents from around the world. The documentary will be broadcast by China Central Television in September.

Women unite to take back the night!

BY KARLIE ARMSTRONG
FOR LAMBDA

On Thursday September 16th, Women are marching against fear, intimidation and violence.

All self identified women and children are welcome to unite and fight for the night.

Take Back the Night is an annual event that affirms commitment to ending the violence that prevents women's personal freedom and safety. Women from all over unite and march to a night of survival and strength.

This year's march will take place on Thursday September 16th at the Steelworker's Hall. There will be a pre-march rally beginning at 7 pm followed by the march itself, at 8 pm.

The march will include numerous agency booths from around the Sudbury community pertaining to women's physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health.

Shirley Harasym from 103 EZ Rock will be the emcee for the event. There will also tentatively be Native women drummers and the Radical Cheerleaders to bring a sense of spirituality and empowerment to the march.

Wheelchairs and a van will be available for those who need rest during the march. There is also a ride program available for Laurentian Students unable to get to the location. Please inquire at the L.U. Women's Centre located in between the bookstore and placement center on the second floor of the Parker building.

So if you would like to have your voice heard through the community; come join the march through the downtown core. All self identified women and children are welcome to come and fight for the right to a place free from violence.

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Tuition freeze meltdown

BY DEBBIE SAUVE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

This spring, the McGuinty government promised to deliver real, positive changes for post-secondary students by confirming they would freeze college and university tuition for two years.

"The key to success in a highly competitive global market is having the most highly-skilled and educated workforce," Mary Anne Chambers, minister of training, colleges and universities, said at that time. "Making sure post-secondary education is accessible and affordable is crucial to building that workforce."

That's why despite our fiscal challenges, we are meeting our commitment to freeze tuition to ensure each student can attain the education that they need to succeed."

However, a mere four months after making this announcement, the Liberals proved that a freeze on tuition was not exactly going to be the turnkey operation that they had promised.

Now, Ontario's Liberal government is saying that tuition fees could in fact rise following the two-year freeze, but would be coupled with more generous and flexible student loans.

However, the Canadian Federation of Students, which is comprised of over 450,000 students across Canada, and more than 235,000 in Ontario, is concerned that the Ministry is even considering future tuition fee hikes before the province's post-secondary education review has even begun its work.

Post-secondary Education Review

As announced in the May 2004 Budget, former Premier Bob Rae is currently leading the Post-secondary Education Review. This review is intended to ensure that education is of high quality, accessible and affordable for today's students and future generations, and at the forefront of innovation.

Rae will lead consultations with students and their parents, university and col-

lege institutions, faculty, staff and members of the private sector to develop recommendations for the post-secondary education system.

He will also ask leaders, innovators and experts from Ontario, other provinces and abroad for advice on issues such as system design, collaboration, funding, student assistance and accountability.

His recommendations will be presented to the Premier and the Minister in early 2005. Right now, polling shows that 82% of Ontarians support freezing and reducing tuition fees.

According to the Federation of Canadian Students (CFS), Ontario students and their families expect that the Panel will make recommendations that will improve the affordability of post-secondary education while maintaining and improving its quality.

"It's a tall order," Jesse Greener, Ontario chairperson of the CFS said. "But we are confident that with a thorough consultation process and a commitment from the government to provide the necessary funding, we can return our system to a state of excellence."

Currently, Ontario is last among the provinces in per-student funding.

"Students are anxious to begin the process of looking at all aspects of post-secondary education, from funding to student financial assistance," said Greener. "We are pleased that the Minister has been able to move so quickly on assembling this panel."

However, the Federation does note some concerns: none of the Panel members are notable for their strong advocacy for lower tuition fees.

"We're willing to keep an open mind about the panel," said Greener, "as long as they're willing to keep an open mind on the issue of tuition fees."

Future Tuition Hikes

Regardless of this, however, the new information regarding future tuition hikes was released on August 8, just weeks before students were to enter their first semester of the much

Proud to be part of the
82% MAJORITY
who think Ontario tuition fees are too high.

I SUPPORT A

TUITION FEE

FREEZE

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.CFSONTARIO.CA

TWO SEPARATE SURVEY'S RECENTLY CONDUCTED BY NATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH COMPANIES ASKED ONTARIANS ABOUT TUITION FEES. IN ONE, 82% OF RESPONDENTS FROM ACROSS ONTARIO SAID THAT TUITION FEES SHOULD BE FROZEN. IN ANOTHER, 82% OF TORY VOTERS IN THE 905 AREA CODE SAID THAT THEY WOULD SUPPORT LOWERING TUITION FEES.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT BY PUTTING THIS POSTER UP IN YOUR WINDOW

YOU CAN GET IT AT YOUR STUDENTS' UNION OFFICE

touted two-year tuition fee freeze.

"We are confused as to why the Liberals would turn their backs on such a popular public policy," Greener said, referring to recent polls, which demonstrate wide support for freezing tuition fees at colleges and universities. "Students have taken the province at its word that the Bob Rae funding review would be a sincere attempt to evaluate all possible solutions to the access crisis. It would appear that they've already made up their minds."

Under the previous Conservative government,

tuition fees jumped by 137% in one decade as a result of system-wide funding cuts.

In fact, Ontario's funding for post-secondary students is currently the worst in the country and class sizes have never been larger. Further to this, over the last 10 years student debt has roughly tripled to \$25,000. These factors have left a college or university education out of reach for many students from low and middle-income families.

"At the end of the day, hiking student loan limits and introducing flowery repayment schemes will only increase student debt

and drive students out of school," Greener explained. "When tuition fees are allowed to increase, financial aid doesn't help students because it is clawed back by rising costs."

Greener warns that efforts to improve access to higher education that do not include a sober look at funding will amount to mere 'window dressing'.

"The previous Conservatives' approach of justifying reduced funding with disingenuous public consultations is not on," said Greener. "We are holding the McGuinty government to a much higher standard."

'Are we public universities or private?'

BY ALIZA LIBMAN
CANADIAN UNIVERSITY PRESS

Statistics Canada has released a report that shows government grants to universities and student fees increased in 2002-2003, the most recent year for which data is available.

Government grants that year comprised 56 per cent of all university revenue, an increase of eight per cent from the year before. However, student fees also made up 20 per cent of university revenue, up 10 per cent from the previous year.

Representatives of national and provincial student groups quickly responded to the news by stating

that, nonetheless, governments were not contributing as much as they should to post-secondary education.

"Government grants are increasing to a certain extent but not at the rate that it needs to be," said Alexandra Dodger, Ontario representative for the Canadian Federation of Students.

Since 1990, she noted, government contributions have increased at an average rate of 1.6 per cent a year, which is less than inflation. Over the same period, the contribution made by student fees has gone up by an average of eight per cent a year.

In Ontario, the trend is even

more alarming, student groups say.

Ontario "does not invest in education as compared to other provinces," said Adam Spence, executive director of the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance.

He pointed out in Ontario, governments are paying 48 per cent of education costs — the second lowest percentage in Canada and less than the national average of 56 per cent. At the same time, student fees in Ontario are making up 27 per cent of revenue, which is higher than the national average of 20 per cent.

"That has translated into tuition increases in the province of Ontario of 137 per cent" since 1990, Spence

said.

In Ontario, he noted, universities are running deficits as operating budgets are coming up short, though grants were awarded to ensure building in preparation for the double cohort.

Dodger agrees, noting that in Ontario, the government contributes less than half of all costs.

"If you read between the lines, (you) can see that students are paying for too much," Dodger said. "When less than half of your money is coming from public sources, you have to ask yourself, are we public universities or private?"

STUDENT INTEREST

Unique films shown in Whitefish

BY TARYN GREEN
LAMBDA CONTRIBUTOR

Arts and culture - they go hand in hand. Art tells us something of the community and culture of which it belongs to.

Which ever form it encompasses, either paintings, sculptures, poetry, music or film, art relays a snapshot of expression, explains a truth about the future and at most times expresses visually what words could never completely describe.

Through art, the artist presents to its audience the way the world is seen through their eyes. In the same way, the culture and surroundings of the artist greatly influence their creations.

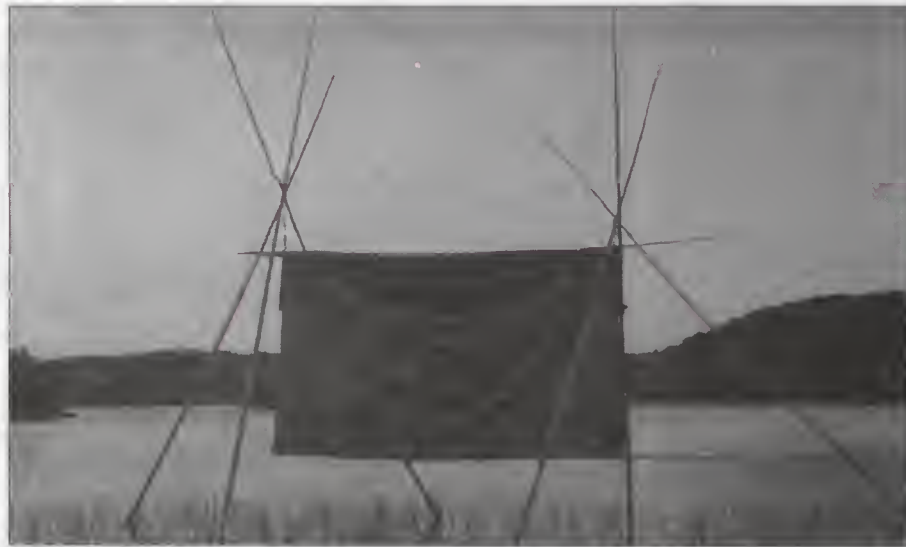
Each of us can submerge ourselves into art in hopes of walking away with insight into a foreign culture or maybe even seeing our own culture in a new light.

So how can you experience art in Sudbury? What impact has Northern Ontario had on its artists?

On a crisp Saturday evening, Aug. 7 2004, Whitefish Lake First Nation hosted the Elements collective that presented part one of its fifth media arts event entitled *Invasions*.

The Elements collective presents the work of artists from diverse geographical and cultural backgrounds, which develop awareness within the broader public and to encourage alliances and dialogues between artists from different regions.

Its members include Mercedes Cueto, Darlene Naponse and Cheryl Rondeau all of whom are artists working in the media arts and came



Patty Blais / SUPPLIED

Shown above is the tarp overlooking the lake where the films were screened in Whitefish.

together as a result of a mutual creative interest and a desire to create awareness of media art in Northern Ontario.

A coach picked up all interested audience members from downtown Sudbury on Elm Street in front of la Galerie du Nouvel-Ontario.

The 35-minute journey included a tongue-in-cheek introduction to reservation life as well as a brief tour that passed important landmarks along the way.

When the audience members arrived and stepped off the bus onto sacred ground, the artists as well as a breathtaking view of the setting sun over Whitefish Lake greeted them.

The viewing began with an introduction to the six artists, as they

were about to showcase their work. Cueto, Josephson, Mangaard, Matharu, Naponse and Rondeau each presented the audience with short films varying in theme and a unique style of their own.

From a cultural mosaic to an emphasis on landscape and geography to the progression of life in both rural and urban areas, the audience learned that all that surrounds them has a lasting affect.

As audience members enjoyed some coffee, scones and freshly picked blueberries they viewed six films on a grey tarp that was suspended over the water surrounded by the sounds and sights of the night.

With no city lights to cloud the

view, the stars blanketed the reserve and added to the enchantment of the evening.

"It was a beautiful and unique concept to have it presented to us in nature, bringing together people of different ages and backgrounds," Natalie Longarini, fourth-year Laurentian student said. "It was free of charge, yet it was a far more enjoyable and enriching experience than a night spent at the movie theater. The films were all beautifully done."

Invasions: Part Two will take place Oct. 2 at the Gladstone Hotel Art Bar in Toronto giving Sudbury artists a chance to showcase their work down south.

"All exhibiting artists have produced new work for *Invasions* each bringing a unique perspective to the theme of identity and place", Cheryl Rondeau, contributing Toronto artist and coordinator of the event, said. "Dealing with issues such as mortality, spirituality, folly and the mundane are what this program of video and film promises to both entice and challenge."

The merging of many cultures and ideas as well as being immersed into nature, while respecting the sacred ground of the Whitefish Lake Native Reserve, was an enlightening experience for all who attended and one that will not soon be forgotten.

If you are interested in other events like this contact the Art Gallery of Sudbury, la Galerie du Nouvel-Ontario or Laurentian University art instructors for more information as to how you can be more involved in the arts community.

International Exchange Program great experience for students

BY JESSICA NATALE
LAMBDA CONTRIBUTOR

One of Laurentian's most unique features is one that remains largely unknown.

The International Student Exchange Program (ISEP), offered by only three Canadian Institutions (Laurentian, Brock, and the University College of Cape Breton) is a cost-efficient way to participate in a study abroad program.

Students can apply to any of the 230 participating ISEP institutions in over 34 countries worldwide. If accepted after the application process, a student will arrange his or her own transportation to that University and enrolls in classes there as required by their program at Laurentian.

At the end of the exchange, which can either be a full year or a semester, acquired credits transfer back to Laurentian and appear on the student's Laurentian transcript.

Founded in 1979, the ISEP program's goal is stated as being "dedicated to the principle that a period of study abroad ought to be available and affordable to all students regardless of social and economic background".

An advantage of the ISEP program over other exchange programs is that a student participating in the exchange pays their regular student fees to Laurentian, which includes tuition and room and board, in Canadian dollars.

The student then receives that equivalent at the host institution, be it in the United States, France, Kenya, Argentina, or Russia. This way, costs are more or less the same as they would be if one was to stay at Laurentian.

"This unique opportunity gives students the latitude to learn and broaden their experience, which of course can help in future careers," said Bora Ugurgel, advisor of international student exchanges and housing at Laurentian. "It goes without saying that students develop new perspectives and are not only offered an unforgettable experience but also a lifelong friendship".

So far, Laurentian has hosted over 15 ISEP students from the United States, France, Mexico, Finland, and Sweden, and has sent 17 Laurentian students all over the world.

"Every year we usually accept two to three students per semester, and we try to send out four students per year," Ugurgel continued.

Nonetheless, there is no limit to the number of students that can apply, though few students are fully aware of the benefits of this particular program.

While ISEP is the most cost-efficient exchange program, Laurentian does offer other exchanges, as well as some department-specific ones.

"Improving a language while traveling and discovering the world makes exchange programs a unique experience in one's education, both formal and general," Ugurgel added.

For more information on any exchange programs, ISEP included, contact Bora Ugurgel in the Student Life office or on the web at www.international.laurentian.ca.

For information specifically on the ISEP exchange, students can also visit www.isep.org.

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Laurentian campus boasts biodiversity

BY CHRIS BLOOME
LAMBDA CONTRIBUTOR

Many moons ago Laurentian University had an opportunity to develop an Arboretum system, or a collection of trees, on campus due to a government incentive plan.

The administration of the day, Dean of Science and Engineering, Department of Biology and as always, some key individuals worked together to set this development in motion.

At the time, the concept was very unique. Sudbury was not known for any great diversity in plant species, let alone a collection of different species of trees.

With the gradual change in the health of the environment, locally and on campus the stage was set for this development.

Unintentionally it is one of the best-kept secrets on campus today. There are extensive trails that can take you to a variety of different areas both scenic and microcosmic in their intention.

Each of these trails can interconnect to key locations on campus and bring you to areas of interest in a relatively short time. Most trails can be walked in minutes depending on the time you have and the pace you keep.

By using the interconnecting system you can extend your walk and take in the views of both Ramsey and Bethel Lakes.

Trails can give you a time for reflection, enjoyment or just plain exercise. If you enjoy the outdoor experience you will also have opportunities to view native wildlife, herbaceous plants and woodlands.

The Upper Campus Trail; for example, leads through the woods between the Parker building and the science complex which brings you



Debbie Sauve / LAMBDA

Shown above is an American goldfinch, a common bird species that can be found on campus.

through a white birch, trembling aspen transition forest into the lower Arboretum pavilion.

Some people might question what transition means? It infers that in time there may be a pine forest dominance replacing the birch and aspen.

At the pavilion there is a trail that parallels the lower parking lot to the main trail up to the Parker building. Along this trail are a number of healthy looking pines.

An area of special attention is known as the Bog. This is a very small area close to the pavilion that has had an actual bog ecosystem developed in it. Careful observation will reveal a number of unique plants associated with this type of habitat, as well as Tamarack.

A brief walk across the parking lot and you can connect into the Southbay Road Lowland Walk, which has a number of loop-like trails through willow, alder and trembling aspen complex.

The lower area had recent beaver activity in it which resulted in some wet land areas as well. Butterflies, dragonflies and insect eating birds such as the yellow warbler, common yellowthroat, swamp sparrow and red-winged blackbird nest in this area.

There are also a number of nesting boxes set up on four-by-four posts to attract the tree swallows (they are used in May and June).

Water plantain is bountiful and cattails and sedges are present as well. The trail is well maintained for short treks. The trail through the wet land area takes you through some interesting habitat and is well worth the effort. It will take you back out to the main entrance of the university.

You can cross the road again here and enter the Upland Trail which travels through jack and red pine on the higher ground. It brings you close to the Willet Green Centre and to a small trail that leads across the

road to the Robertson Cottage and Ramsey Lake. Blueberries can be found on the higher slopes and can be harvested (eaten) between July and September.

Slightly more remote is the Bethel Lake Trail and a short connection to some high ground. You can get an excellent view of Bethel Lake to the east and the university campus to the west. There are picnic tables in the area for lunch users (please remove your garbage).

Bethel Lake is considered a eutrophic lake. One that is very rich in nutrients. This association means it is attractive to migrating waterfowl in the spring and fall and has a rich fish population.

Careful observation of the shoreline will reveal some bright mauve coloured flowers in September. The purple loosestrife is established minimally along Bethel's shores. On occasion, Bald eagle, river otter, mink, muskrat and beaver have been seen in this area. Be patient and observe.

It is encouraged you take the time to try out some of the Arboretum trails that have been developed. In time you might find a spot that is attractive or memorable to you.

Come back to your university in ten or twenty years and visit the spot. See how it has changed or remained the same. Take in the pleasant odours.

Reflect on your future, choices, that Voltaire assignment that is due, the calculus equation you are missing, the professor that is not so bad (who really carried the burden), Frodo or Sam, whether you will get married soon or go to grad school?

The trails are there for your enjoyment.

For this writer, I hear a lark calling my name....

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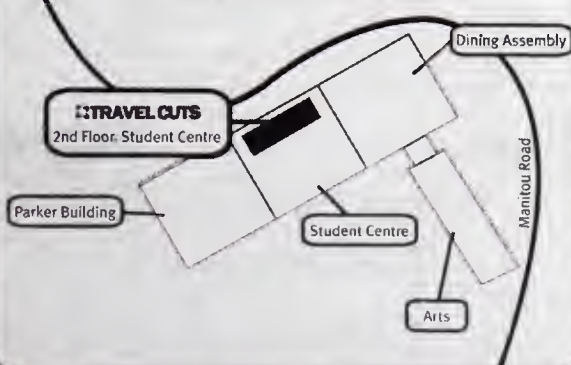
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ORIENTATION 2004

Laurentian launches new Web site

BY DEBBIE SAUVE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After four months of planning and nearly 1,500 collective man-hours, orientation 2004 is finally here.

And although this welcome celebration is intended to be all fun and games, a lot of work went into making sure each student's transition to Laurentian is going to be as easy as possible.

The planning for this year's orientation, previously known as Frosh Week, began early this spring. The reason for the name change was first, to get away from the connotation of alcohol, partying and initiation that Frosh Week held.

Orientation, on the other hand, is intended to be about trying to welcome the students and make their move to Laurentian as a first-year's easier.

The second reason for the change was that that welcoming events are no longer inclusive to a week.

"Orientation used to be just a week long event, but because everyone wants different activities at different times, we have expanded throughout almost the entire month of September," said Nicole Rioux, orientation leader. "This affords students with a greater possibility of getting involved in everything they can. After all we aim our events at the entire LU community."

Some of the events that the Orientation Team has and will be responsible for include the Information Fair, the Frosh Play and the Information Kiosk.

However, besides these events, one of the major projects that the team has initiated this year was the launch of the orientation Web site on July 12, 2004. In fact, the first two months of the planning process were concentrated on the development of the orientation Web site.

It was decided that Laurentian would dive into the realm of online orientation after the orientation committee attended a presentation on this subject at Guelph University, who was the first school in Ontario

to have one.

This is the first year that Laurentian has had such a Web site, and is the second university in the province to do so.

"Having the Web site is a much more useful tool in comparison to the student activity guides that we have handed out in previous years," said Dan Lemieux, orientation webmaster. "It has allowed us to reach out to students a lot earlier than we have ever been able to do before."

To let students know about this new tool, the Orientation Team sent out postcards in mid-June to all first-year students inviting them to check out the Web site. They also created a direct link on Laurentian University's page, to catch students just checking out to main Web site.

"We have a direct link from the LU Web site to the orientation Web site so if students are just leafing through the LU page they can easily get on our Web site," Rioux said. "Because we no longer have a hand-book it is important that we make sure all students know about and take full advantage of the site."

Some of the main features of the Web site include a FAQ, Q&A, and a chat-room for first-year students.

For the FAQ, the team had to contact all of the departments that were interested in having a FAQ on the orientation Web site. This provided the site with a board range of answers to frequently asked questions.

Another feature that was developed to help students get their questions answered was a Q&A. "If stu-

dents have questions they can scroll down a list of departments where their questions will automatically be directed to that department," Lemieux said. "Through this feature we are able to answer a wide range of questions from how do I get a parking pass to what is the ethnic diversity like at Laurentian."

However, according to Lemieux one of the most successful elements that was launched is the chat-room for first-year students.

"With the chat, a lot of students that are coming to Laurentian, particularly those who will be living in residence, have the unique opportunity to meet other students before they even get here," Rioux said. "This makes it easier for students that are coming here, that would have otherwise showed up on the first day of school not knowing any-

one."

The intention of the chat-room was to build a community among students much quicker. For example on the first day the chat was launched, two students met and after that interaction requested to become roommates.

"It is also really great for international students and those from out of town because it gives them the opportunity to interact with others from afar," Lemieux said.

Other elements of the Web site include welcome videos from the SGA, AEF, LOCS and the president, as well as weekly contests where students compete to win a LU prize.

So far, the Orientation Team believes that the site has been a huge success for Laurentian with approximately 13,000 visitors and 30,000 pages viewed already.



Photo Supplied

Shown above is the Orientation Team, who has been busy working to make students transition to Laurentian easier since May.

Study counters image of students as binge drinkers

BY DAVID SHIPLEY
CANADIAN UNIVERSITY PRESS

A newly released study is challenging a popular perception among university students that the majority of their peers frequently drink alcohol.

While Hollywood movies such as last year's *Old School* or 2002's *Van Wilder* frequently depict university students as serial party-going binge drinkers, this new study shows 63 per cent drink just twice a month or less.

"The study indicates that 80 per cent of students think that the typical student drinks once per week or more often," said Fran Wdowczyk, executive director of the Student Life Education Company.

"What's true is that 63 per cent drink twice a month or less often, and one third of the students erroneously believe that students in general most commonly drink three times a week."

The study, conducted by the Centre for Social Norms and Research, a branch of the Ontario-based Student Life Education Company, surveyed more than 5,000 students at 10 Canadian universities and colleges. It was funded through a \$1-million grant from the Brewers of Canada, a national brewery association.

The company is better known on university campuses as Bacchus Canada, a national group

that promotes responsible drinking.

This new study is part of a three-year plan to promote responsible drinking amongst students.

"The goal for us was to address students' misconceptions and allow them the opportunity to powerfully chose knowing the truth," she said.

Included in the survey were two Atlantic Canadian universities, St. Mary's University in Halifax and the University of New Brunswick's Fredericton campus.

The study's results didn't surprise Anne Forrestall, acting director of UNB Fredericton's student services office. The majority of their students aren't binge drinkers, she said.

"I think it would be fair to say that students today recognize how much it is costing them to come here, and they take their education seriously."

"A lot of our students are working part-time; they don't have all the time in the world for partying because they have to work to support themselves while they are going to university."

A shift in the diversity of the student body on campus, with an ever-increasing amount of international students, is also reducing how many students are drinking.

For UNB Saint John's Muslim students, alcohol is called "Ummul khabais," or the mother of all evils, said Zafar Qureshi, president of the campus's Muslim Students Association.

"The philosophy of Islam is that anything which is injurious to your health is forbidden," said Qureshi.

Qureshi said he'd like to see more social activities on campus that don't involve alcohol, so that all students can participate.

Mike Dobbeltsteyn, a UNB Saint John student and social director for the student council, said he believes students are becoming more focused on their health and are drinking less, much like the general population.

"So people are exercising a lot more, they're eating healthier, and sometimes alcohol does not fit into their dietary plans," he said.

"By no means is alcohol never a part of university life, but there's just other priorities that do come up in a student's life."

Dobbeltsteyn said accommodating the university's large international community was an important part of his planning for the upcoming year.

He's planned a variety of social activities for the year, such as computer gaming parties, mid-night movies, and potluck dinners, as well as traditional dances or bar events.

"So a lot of students don't drink permanently, and some don't want to drink in public. What is key is finding something they would like to do and creating an atmosphere for them."

ORIENTATION 2004

Information Fair was huge success, says organizers

BY DEBBIE SAUVE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Information Fair hit the Great Hall at Laurentian University for the first time ever last Saturday and Sunday.

This gathering of everything that is Laurentian and university life, made it easier than ever for students to settle into a new school, a new town, or new line of study (whatever the case may be).

Adjusting to University life can be a trying task. And after the basics of getting registered and learning where and when your classes are, not much time is often left to research all of the services that are available on-campus and in the community.

This is where the Information Fair came in. It put everything together, to give students the unique opportunity to one-stop-shop all of their needs over two days.

"The Fair is a way for us to reach out to students in a way that we have never been able to do before," Nicole Rioux, orientation leader said. "It gives students the opportunity to find out what's available, who they would need to talk to, and later gives them a face that they will recognize."

In total, the Fair included 32 tables and 27 booths, with everything ranging from LU's various clubs and services, to parking passes, to transit information.

"It makes it much easier for first-year students com-

ing to Laurentian to have everything in one spot," Rioux said. "It gives new registrants the opportunity to find out about everything Laurentian has to offer in one convenient location."

In previous years, Laurentian has only had an information kiosk, which will again take place this year on get date.

The difference is that the kiosk only consists of the Orientation Team and the Registrar, who are available to answer questions, or help students if they get lost, while the fair combines booths from all spectrums of the university.

Over the summer the orientation committee decided that the Fair would be a good idea for Laurentian, because it was something that had been so successful at other universities across the province.

"Although this is only our first try, I hope that it is something we will continue for many years to come," Rioux said. "And judging by the turn-out, overwhelming support, and its proven success at other schools, I think that it will endure."

Over the two-day event, approximately 1600 visitors came to enjoy the Fair. Nonetheless, although there was a good turn-out and in her words was a "huge success", Rioux says that the orientation team would like to increase advertising for the event next time, to make sure that everyone knows about and has the opportunity to participate.



Debbie Sauve / LAMBDA

A total of 27 booths were set up in the Great Hall for the Information Fair, held on Sept. 4 and 5, to answer student questions.

"We highly encouraged all students to come to the fair," Rioux said. "On top of advertising, one of the ways that we did that was by offering prizes to students at the event."

However, the Fair was not only geared at students, it was also geared at parents. The team not only invited parents to attend the event

with their children, but a parents booth was included to provide mom and dad with information they may need as well.

"At the end of the day, all we can hope for is that the Fair helped students and parents easily retrieve the information about the uni-

versity they needed to move smoothly into the school year," Rioux explained. "We also hope that this event may have indirectly increased the number of students utilizing all of the wonderful services that we have here at Laurentian."

A message from the library to students

On behalf of the staff of the J.N. Desmarais Library I would like to welcome you back to campus at the start of the fall term. And if you are new to campus, I extend a special welcome to you.

This term when you come to the library, look for the Learning Commons located to your right as you enter. In the Learning Commons the library will be collaborating with several partners to improve service to students. Its creation has led to several changes in the library:

- * The Reference Desk has been moved and renamed the "Help Desk".

- * The hours on the Help desk have been extended until 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. This is because the library has hired extra staff on a grant provided by Dr. Harley D'Entremont, the Vice-President Academic (francophone affairs)

- * Four librarians have moved into offices which are more accessible to the public.

- * The twenty computers formerly on the third floor have been relocated to the second, and these, when added to others specially purchased for this project, will turn the Learning Commons into the largest publicly accessible computer lab on campus.

- * The printers on the third floor have also been relocated to the second.

- * Second floor washrooms have been remodelled to accommodate those in wheel-

chairs.

- * Journals whose holdings are duplicated electronically have been relocated to storage.

- * The government documents collection has been relocated to the third floor as has a significant part of the reference collection.

- * The third floor has been identified as a "Quiet Area" and it is expected that it will become a refuge for those who dislike noise when they study. (Conversely those who like to talk can head to the library's foyer where a number of chairs and tables have been set aside for use).

The summer has also seen other changes that are worth of note:

- * The library's on-line instruction workshops have migrated to the latest version of TLM (The Learning Manager). Those familiar with the earlier version will immediately note two improvements: first, it is no longer necessary to download a plug-in to ensure the programme works; second, the two digit password has been replaced and now, the username and password on TLM will parallel those required by GroupWise.

- * The library has hired Ms. Lise Doucette a librarian specializing in government documents, data and maps. She may be found in the Learning Commons.

- * M. Alain Lamothe, returning after a year's study leave, has assumed responsibility for the library's electronic products. Users should soon notice fewer "dead leads" as well as a bet-

ter integration among products.

- * The library has continued to add new electronic services such as the Oxford English Dictionary online and RefWorks, a web-based bibliography manager

- * The interfaces of a number of electronic services have been made bilingual. Users who start searching in French will see the French interface and vice versa for those who start in English.

- * The library's interlibrary loan service continues to improve. Now known as RACER, the service is now completely electronic and no longer uses paper.

One of the reasons the library continues to improve its services to you is that you have supplied us with good ideas. We continue to welcome your ideas and to facilitate them, we have placed a "Suggestions" button on our home page (www.laurentian.ca/library) that can be filled out and sent along to us.

You may also make suggestions through your representatives on the Teaching and Learning Committee, on which I now sit. And of course, I would be pleased to meet with you at any time in my office on the third floor. In the event I do not have a chance to say this in person, may I wish you every success in the new term.

Lionel Bonin
Director
lbonin@laurentian.ca
Ext 4841

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Editor: Kris Harris (acting) - lambda_arts@laurentian.ca

Immaculate performers



Kris Harris / LAMBDA

Immaculate Machine, a pop-rock trio from Victoria B.C. has found a second home at The Townhouse Tavern in Sudbury. On September 3, they made their fourth appearance at the local musical hotspot.

BY KRIS HARRIS
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The Townhouse Tavern was the showcase for two up-and-coming Canadian bands from two totally different musical genres on Friday, September 3.

Headlining the show was Indie-pop trio Immaculate Machine from Victoria, B.C. The band, consisting of Brooke Gallupe on guitar, Kathryn Calder on keyboards and Luke Kozlowski on drums, hit the scene in 2002, and released their debut CD, titled "Transporter" in May of this year. All three members of the band share the singing duties, giving each song its own unique, individual feel.

For one song, Gallupe bounces around the stage while belting out passionate lyrics and keeping his guitar-strumming steady; the next song, Calder sings sweetly while playing intense melodies on her keyboard, her voice occasionally sounding eerily like Gwen Stefani on the first No Doubt album. It truly keeps the listener guessing, unsure what to expect next.

The band took its name from a line in a Paul Simon song, but said they basically just picked two random words out of a dictionary.

"It is the kind of thing that anyone can take their own meaning from," Kozlowski said. "The good thing about art is that it can be interpreted in different ways. We wanted a name that represented that ambiguity."

The band left Victoria in May and began their second cross-Canada tour to promote their first album. When they got to Toronto, they suspended the tour, staying for two months to soak in the cul-

ture and gig a little in the metropolis. Recently, they started the tour up again, and they plan to finish it out on the East Coast before making their way back home to B.C. But, they had to stop in Sudbury for a show at the Townhouse before they went east.

"We have a good relationship with the Townhouse," Gallupe said. "That is sort of why we like to come to Sudbury so often. It's nice to come somewhere to relax."

This was their fourth visit to the local bar, and they said they've loved every one. "The first time that we ever played here [The Townhouse] there was a big group of librarians that came to the show and they were the rowdiest ones in the bar," Calder said.

"Our dream show would be to play the Big Nickel Mine, right underground," Kozlowski said.

The band visited the Dynamic Earth site during one of their visits and toured the Big Nickel Mine.

"The hard hats were pretty hot," Calder added.

The trio is currently contemplating ideas for their second album, which they may start to write when they get home.

"We have been formulating plans in our head and starting to write songs," Gallupe said. "We have always done our stuff independently, but we are going to look for a producer for the next album, just to refine our sound. Sometimes we can be a little bit scattered in the studio, and we need someone to refine our ideas."

Immaculate Machine should be returning to the Townhouse sometime next month.

Opening for Immaculate Machine and making their first appearance anywhere east of Saskatchewan was Five Star Homeless, a quartet from Saskatoon made up of Matty Griffith on the acoustic guitar, Burke Barlow on the electric guitar, Harley Hoeft on the stand-up bass and Jarred John on the drums. Griffith and Hoeft take care of the vocals for the band.

Referring to their style as "roots-a-billy", the band's mix of bluegrass, country and rock has been gaining momentum. Last year, they released their first full-length CD, titled "Comfortable Distance," which displays their unique sound.

Five Star Homeless has been doing some camping on their current tour, sleeping in a tent they pitch in the towns where they have gigs.

Band-leader Griffith also expressed a great respect for the Townhouse Tavern and Sudbury.

"If you're coming through Sudbury, you have to stop here," Griffith said. "Bands know that this is where you cut your teeth."

"The Townhouse is a classic place in all of Canada. Every band plays here at one point or another. There is so much history."

Despite regularly sleeping in a tent, Griffith was less than impressed with the conditions of the downstairs band-room at the tavern.

"The downstairs bathroom was rated the fourth worst in all of Canada," he said comically. "It is that bad. I was just down there and there's a cricket singing. It's an indoor outhouse, I love it."

For more information about these bands, visit immaculatemachine.com, fivestarthomeless.com or thetownhouse.com.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Editor: Kris Harris (acting) - lambda_arts@laurentian.ca

Thorneloe to present award-winning play



Kris Harris / LAMBDA

R.J. Comeau, left, and Valerie Senyk recreate a scene from "The Monument." Some scenes and language used in the play may be disturbing to some viewers. The production will hit the Thorneloe theatre starting on Friday.

BY KRIS HARRIS

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

This is an unsettling time in the world today. With international conflicts raging across the globe, and evening newscasts regularly documenting the carnage, it is a time when many people are looking to any resource for answers to deeply-troubling ethical questions, and Thorneloe University is happy to oblige.

For the first time, Thorneloe has scheduled the opening of a play to coincide with the return of students for the fall semester. "The Monument", written by Canadian playwright Colleen Wagner, won the Governor General's Award in 1996 and was also nominated for a Dora Mavor Moore award.

The play tells the story of a young soldier, sentenced to death for war crimes committed against women, who is unexpectedly "saved" from execution by a mysterious woman, who takes him on an emotional journey into the realms of hate, retribution, repentance and forgiveness.

Only two actors perform in the production: fourth-year Theatre Performance student R.J. Comeau will play

Stetko, the soldier, and Valerie Senyk, Chair of Theatre Productions at Thorneloe, takes on the role of Mejra, the mysterious woman. Ulrich Sikora, Thorneloe theatre professor, will be directing.

Everyone involved in the production feels this is the perfect time to present this particular play.

"I've been really upset about what's been going on in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Senyk, who chose to do this play because of that feeling. She's hoping that others who share her beliefs will come to see "The Monument."

"If they've got a social conscience, they'll come," she said.

The director of the production agrees with his actor. "I think it's the perfect time for this play," Sikora said. "It deals with very important issues about relationships."

"The play gives some ideas on how to stop perpetuating cycles of hate and killing. It's intended as food for thought."

The student actor portraying the soldier also recognizes the importance of "The Monument."

"This play (allows people) to see the view point of soldiers and victims (of war)," Comeau said.

The actors are excited to face the challenge of maintaining the play with just the two of them on stage.

"There's more demand on the actors when there's only two," Senyk said, "but I feel a great affinity to the woman I'm playing."

Sikora said the play also asks an important question.

"Is it possible to forgive under horrific circumstances, and when to forgive?"

This performance contains scenes and language which may be disturbing to some.

"It's an adult play," said Tamara Gagnon, stage/production manager. "It's not appropriate for children."

Performances will be on September 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, and 18, at 8 p.m. A matinee performance is scheduled for Sunday, September 12, at 2 p.m., and September 15 is "Twoonie Night."

Admission is \$5 for students and seniors, and \$10 for adults. Tickets can be purchased at Thorneloe University, Laurentian University Bookstore, Black Cat Too, and Stage & Street.

For further information and tickets, please call Susan Moores at Thorneloe University, at (705) 673-1730.

Northern Ontario Music and Film Awards to be held Sept. 18

BY KRIS HARRIS

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Music and Film in Motion (MFM) will be holding their second annual Northern Ontario Music and Film Awards on September 18 at 100 Georges, and the 2004 field is even more diverse than last year.

"This year we have really built upon the success of the inaugural awards program launched in 2003," said Dennis Landry, Executive Director of MFM. "We have by far exceeded our expectations this year. The overall quality and diversity of the work submitted this year is really exciting evidence of a growing music and film industry here in the North."

Music and Film in Motion is a non-profit organization whose mandate is to foster and promote the development of the music and film industries in Northern Ontario.

Last year, the inaugural ceremony was

held in front of a capacity crowd in conjunction with the kick-off to the 2003 Cinefest International Film Festival.

This year's ceremony will feature the announcement of the winners for Best Album, Best Songwriter, Best Engineer, Best Film, Best Director, Best Screenplay, Best Film Editor and Best Screenplay, as well as the presentation of a special Trailblazer Award to an individual or organization who has made outstanding contributions to the music industry in Northern Ontario.

A limited number of awards show tickets will be available to the public this year. Tickets are \$20 and are available by phoning MFM at 674-9954. As this is a licensed event, individuals must be of legal age to attend. In addition to the awards announcements, the show will include selected performances and film clips from nominees, as well as an after-party featuring live entertainment and refreshments.

For further information about the

awards, please visit www.thinknorth.ca.

THE FINALISTS:

BEST ALBUM

Crash Kelly "Penny Pills", producer: Sean Kelly, Ky Anto

Kate Maki "Confusion Unlimited", producer: Kate Maki, Dave Draves, Blair Packham

"Could've Been King", producer: Blair Packham

BEST SONGWRITER

Charlie Angus "Hanging Songs"

Sean Kelly "11 Cigarettes"

Kate Maki "Over"

Blair Packham "Little Fish"

BEST ENGINEER

Billy Bruhmuller

Gary Gibson

Sean Perras

BEST FILM

Ben Bruhmuller "Insomnambulist"
Confederation College "PACT"
Paul Stark "Gas Station"

BEST DIRECTOR

Ben Bruhmuller "Insomnambulist"
Derek Smith "PACT"
Paul Stark "Gas Station"

BEST FILM EDITOR

Ben Bruhmuller "Insomnambulist"
John Hartman "Fait ' la maison"
Paul Stark "Gas Station"

BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

Ben Bruhmuller "Insomnambulist"
Christian Schauz "Tom"
Derek Smith "PACT"

BEST SCREENPLAY

Tony Calarco "Into the Sunset"
Ian Pitblado "I Remember Jack"
Gregory Tremblay "Finders Keepers"

LAMBDA SPORTS

Editor: Kris Harris- lambda_sports@laurentian.ca

Are you ready for some football?



Kris Harris / LAMBDA

The men's soccer team will be ready to begin its quest for an OUA championship when they start the season off at home against York this Saturday at 1 p.m.

Both the men's and women's teams will take to the field this weekend for their home openers

BY KRIS HARRIS
SPORTS EDITOR

The Laurentian University Lady Vees soccer team will be looking to put their best foot forward this year.

After a dismal 2003-2004 season that saw the team manage only one win in ten tries, they are looking to rebound and put together a quality season this time around.

"Overall, we're a stronger team," said head coach Rob Gallo. "We're in the second phase of rebuilding now. That group of rookies is in their second year now, and they came back ready."

"That group of rookies is in their second year now, and they came back ready."

- Rob Gallo, head coach of Laurentian's women's soccer team.

The team showed this readiness during an exhibition stint in Quebec. They went undefeated in the first two games, scoring one win and one tie. Unfortunately, the team was forced to cancel its final preseason game because of injuries they suffered in the first two.

"We didn't want to suffer the consequences of losing more players for the first week," Gallo said. He added that the second game in Montreal was played very tough by both teams.

"It almost felt like a playoff game," he said. "It was very intense. It was a physical game."

However, the coach was very proud of the way his team performed in spite of the injuries.

"They responded very well and won the

game," Gallo said. He added that cancelling the last game was just a precaution.

Hurt during the trip was Sally Parent, second-year defender, who went down with a knee injury, and Claire Miller, first-year midfielder, who suffered a concussion. Both players are going to have their injuries assessed, but are doubtful for the first regular-season game.

"(Parent) is a tremendous loss for us," Gallo said, "but we can still be strong on the back line."

Gallo said the first three games for the team, which will all be played at Laurentian, will be critical.

"If we don't have good games at home, we put ourselves behind the eight-ball, and then we have to win away from home."

All in all, Gallo likes the team's chances this year.

"We want to be very competitive," he said. "We're shooting for a playoff spot, but I'd love a home playoff game. We have to take each game as if it's our last."

"We want the other teams to have to adjust to our style of play. This will mean a solid team approach consisting of tight marking, limiting scoring chances and a quick counter-attacking game."

"We will play a combination of possession soccer and direct play depending on our opposition's weaknesses. Of course, we must finish our chances around the net and score key goals. Once the dust settles after our last game, we will see where we end up in the standings and hopefully we have secured a home playoff berth."

The season begins for the Lady Vees soccer team this Saturday, Sept. 11 at the Laurentian field against the strong York University team. Game time is 3 p.m. They have another home game the next day, on Sunday, Sept. 12 at 3 p.m., against the University of Toronto.

Men's team

The 2004/2005 men's soccer squad will be looking to improve on last season's division title and bring an Ontario University Championship home to Laurentian University.

After losing in the playoffs to the eventual Ontario champion UWO Mustangs, the Voyageurs are determined to not fall short this season. This will not be an easy task, as the team will be taking on the likes of perennial soccer powers from the University of Toronto, York University, McMaster University and Brock University.

Although this season's team is losing five starters from last year's roster, it returns with a great nucleus to compete for the Ontario title. Looking to lead this season's team are defenders Wellesley Robertson, Jeff Collins and Ryan Armstrong. They bring experience and leadership, combined with a strong work ethic on the field to lead this squad from the back.

The midfield also has a veteran presence, lead by Stephen Soutar, Paul and Luis Andrez. Their skills create many opportunities for the frontline to capitalize and to control the pace of the game.

The team's strongest position this season will come from forwards Szymon Niedzwiecki, Giuseppe Politi and Joe Jesseau. Their skills and finishing ability are second-to-none in Ontario.

The team's veteran presence, combined with promising newcomers, will ensure that they will be competitive and successful this upcoming season. The Voyageurs men's soccer team starts its season this Saturday, Sept. 11 against York, opening for the women. Game time for the men is 1 p.m.

They also play on Sunday at 1 p.m. at home against the University of Toronto.

LAMBDA SPORTS

Editor: Kris Harris- lambda_sports@laurentian.ca

Outstanding alumni honoured

The Laurentian University Alumni Voyageur Hall of Fame has announced its inductees for the 2004-2005 year.

They include Canadian basketball stars Ken Shields and Kathy Shields, cross-country runner Ray Paulins and the Ontario University Athletics Association (OUAA) Championship winning 1988-89 men's curling team.

Ken Shields joined Laurentian's men's basketball program in the 1970-71 season, after coaching the 1969-70 University of British Columbia ladies basketball team to a championship. He coached with the Voyageurs through six seasons, earning his first Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union (CIAU) Coach of the Year award and an appearance in the CIAU tournament for Laurentian in 1975-76. More recently, Shields has worked with the Canadian national team, coaching Canada to a seventh-place finish at the 1994 world basketball championships. Shields was appointed as a member of the Order of Canada in 1998, and inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1999.

Kathy Shields has 22 years of

coaching experience at the University of Victoria. Prior to coaching with Victoria, Shields played for the UBC Thunderbirds, winning a Canadian championship in 1970. She then moved to Laurentian University, and brought the 1975 and 1976 team to consecutive CIAU titles.

Kathy Shields began coaching the Canadian women's national team in 1993, a team she had played on throughout her University career from 1970-75, coaching the team to a bronze medal at the world championship in 1994.

Ray Paulins was the star member of the Voyageur's cross-country running team from 1980-1985. Paulins was a two time All-Canadian in 1984 and 1985, and holds the men's 5000m outdoors record. He is a seven time OUA champion and the 1982 Laurentian University athlete of the year. In 1985, Paulins won the prestigious Voyageur Award. "I am surprised and honoured to be the recipient of the award," Paulins said, "and to be honoured alongside Laurentian greats such as Alex Baumann."

The 1988-1989 Men's Curling

Team, consisting of Scott Patterson, Phil Loevenmark, Dean McLanaghan, Mike Richter, Stephan Smith and coach Bill Groom, were the OUAA Champions. Patterson's team went undefeated in the championship tournament, resulting in Laurentian University's sole provincial curling title. Scott Patterson and Phil Loevenmark curled competitively as a team after graduating from Laurentian University. They represented Northern Ontario at the 1994 and 1999 Briers. Patterson and Loevenmark placed third in the 1993 Canadian Mixed Curling Championships and competed in the 1997 Canadian Curling Trials (playing for Russ Howard). Phil Loevenmark played in the 2004 Brier, representing Ontario, on the Mike Harris team.

Scott Patterson died tragically in 2004 when his curling team was in an automobile accident on their way to a bonspiel in Sudbury.

The induction ceremony and banquet for the Alumni Voyageurs Hall of Fame will be held on October 15.

Basketball Ontario induction

Basketball Ontario also announced the inductees to the Ontario Basketball Hall of Fame, and one of the recipients of the honour in the coach category has strong Laurentian ties.

In 17 years as head coach of the Laurentian University Lady Vees, Peter Ennis never failed to qualify for the national championship tournament. Ennis' overall record at Laurentian was an impressive 248 wins and 48 losses, including a record of 189-14 in regular season OWIAA play. Ennis' teams won two CIAU titles (1990, 1991), two CIAU silver medals (1985, 1987) and three CIAU bronze medals (1992, 1993, 1995). He was named OWIAA Coach of the Year four times (1984, 1985, 1991, 1992) and CIAU Coach of the Year twice (1987, 1991). Ennis served as head coach of the Canadian Women's National Team and represented Canada at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. Ennis passed away in 1997 after a lengthy battle with leukemia.

He and five others will be inducted into the Ontario Basketball Hall of Fame in a ceremony set for September 18 at Humber College.

Cross-country team ready, set, go for first race at home

BY KRIS HARRIS
SPORTS EDITOR

There's a long road ahead of the Laurentian University Lady Vees' cross-country team if it is planning to repeat its impressive showing at last year's provincial championships.

In 2003, the team finished fifth overall at the OUA Championships, which was the best finish in Laurentian's history. Two weeks later, the team captured an equally impressive eleventh-place finish at the national CIS championships, finishing the year in style.

This year, however, things don't look quite as bright for the blue-and-gold.

"We lost a lot of girls this year," said Dick Moss, head coach of the team.

In fact, the team has lost eight runners, including three starters, from last year. Only four women are returning this year, and as many as nine rookies could be racing for the Lady Vees' this season.

"It'll probably take us a year to get our legs," Moss said.

Two key runners returning to the team this year will be Leila Angrand and Alicia Kaye. Angrand was named rookie of



the year last year and was also named a second-team all-star. Kaye spent the summer running with the national triathlon team, and should be in good shape when the season starts.

Moss is expecting another good season from these more-experienced runners.

"We'll be looking for leadership from our veterans," he said. "Alicia Kaye is a very strong leader."

This year, the team will be

adding a sports-psychology intern to increase their chances of success.

"She'll be helping us with mental training," Moss said.

Despite the young team, Moss is optimistic about their chances.

"We've kept a fairly good core group," Moss said. "We should get some good individual performances."

"If we can stay top eight, we'll have done a good job,"

There is only six races scheduled in the two-month cross-country season before the provincial championships, but the coach is confident that this will be enough preparation for his team.

"It's a pretty full season," he said. "It means we're going almost every weekend."

The team's first event will be the Laurentian Open/Ramsey Tour, which is a hybrid race consisting of both a track and a trail component. The race will start at the L.U. track this Saturday, September 11.

Sports In Brief

Coach to compete in Japan

Lisa Labrecque, an assistant coach with the Laurentian Women's Cross-Country Running Team, has been selected to compete for Canada's national team at the International Ekiden road race in Yokohama, Japan on February 22nd. The Ekiden, a road race comprising relay legs of 5km, 10km, 6km, 6km, 10km and 5.19 km, covers over 42 kilometres and involves world-class distance run-

ners from a number of invited countries.

Labrecque, who trains with the Laurentian women, was selected on the basis of her finish at the National XC Championships and her excellent indoor track record. As of February 1st, she was undefeated indoors and had run the 2nd and 3rd fastest 1500 times in the country (4:22.49 & 4:25.04), and the 4th fastest 3000m (9:30.14).

Intramurals

The Intramural season is right around the corner, so sign up for your favourite sports today!

Sport	Reg. Date	Event Date
Outdoor Soccer (Co-ed)	Sept. 13-17	Oct. 2-3
Beach Volleyball (Co-ed)	Sept. 13-17	Sept. 24
Basketball (Men's)	Sept. 13-17	Sept 16-Nov. 25 (Tues. and Thur.)
Basketball (Women's)	Sept. 13-17	Sept 16-Nov. 25 (Tues. and Thur.)
Kinball	Sept. 13-17	Sept. 24, Oct. 1, Oct. 8
Modified 4X4 Volleyball	Sept. 20-24	Sept. 27- Oct. 27

These are only upcoming events. Check the intramural schedule for full event listings.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Editor: Luke Norton - lambda_science@laurentian.ca

Scientists turn slag into usable product

BY LUKE NORTON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

Fenicem Minerals Inc. of Copper Cliff believes they have an environmentally friendly solution to Sudbury's slag problem.

In 1999, David Krofchak, President of Fenicem, and Dr. Werner Dresler, now of Laurentian's School of Engineering, patented a process that turns nickel smelter slag, currently considered to be waste, into useable products.

The process leaves no waste, as every part of the slag becomes a useable product. Fenicem's goal is to eliminate the accumulation of slag in Sudbury and other mining operations around the globe.

Unfortunately, it's more than just a problem of aesthetics. Slag leaches metals, increasing the risk of toxic metals reaching the water table. It is particularly a problem if the slag has been crushed or ground up, raising the levels of metal absorption by creating more surface area for water to come into contact with.

"There have been cases where slag has had to be removed from building sites near water," Dr. David Pearson, professor of Geology at Laurentian said. "Because it was quite clear that the metals were leaching.

Aesthetically it's obviously an issue. Slag piles are very, very difficult to revegetate; that means it will remain an aesthetic problem for years to come."

Slag is a byproduct produced by the smelting process and has long been a visible part of the Sudbury landscape.

As of 2000, there were over 129 million tonnes of it stored in local slag heaps, and mining companies in the area were generating another 1.2 million tonnes of it per year. It has been used in Sudbury for years as rail ballast, road base, and even



Luke Norton / LAMBDA

Slag piles (which are a form of mining waste), like this one in the Falconbridge township, are a common sight throughout Sudbury's landscape.

as driveways.

In Krofchak and Dresler's process, aluminum and lime are added to molten slag, creating an aluminothermic reaction. This aluminothermic process can recover 98 per cent of the metals left in the slag.

The leftover material can then be ground up and used as cement, and has passed Ministry of the Environment leach tests and met CSA approval. This "secondary slag" can be used for a wide variety of applications, including ready-mix concrete, shotcrete, and mine backfill. Nothing is left over, so there is no threat to the environment.

The process can treat both stock-piled slag and slag that is passing through the smelting process, meaning that new slag could be eliminated before even leaving the smelter. The slag can even be treated while in the rail car pots that carry the slag from the smelter.

"It is a proven process," Krofchak said. "The [aluminothermic] process has been used in other parts of the world to extract rare and valuable metals."

Unlike current cement production, which releases approximately 100,000,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide every year, Fenicem's process doesn't emit greenhouse gasses.

Also, fewer metals are being wasted, thereby slowing the depletion of non-renewable natural resources.

"They've turn the slag into ore," Pearson said. "It is a very neat concept. They've created an ore for the future." Unlike naturally occurring ore bodies, however, this one is growing by over a million tonnes per year.

Fenicem's process has yet to be adopted by mining companies in Sudbury, although both INCO and Falconbridge have expressed interest in the process and have recognized the need to dispose of their stockpiles of slag.

Pheromone encites purchasing power

Biotech firm creates gas to make you shop till you drop

BY LUKE NORTON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

A Canadian biotech firm created waves earlier this year when it launched a new pheromone product called Commercaire.

Vancouver-based Enhanced Air Technologies (EAT) developed the substance at the request of an unnamed Las Vegas casino, claiming the product created "subconscious feelings of comfort and security," causing consumers "to stay longer, spend more, and return more frequently" to establishments using it in their ventilation systems.

Pheromones are naturally occurring, invisible, and odourless chemicals detected by the vomeronasal organ, a small sense organ located in the nose. When stimulated, the organ sends signals to the hypothalamus, the brain's emotion center, triggering responses deeply rooted in human instincts.

EAT marketed Commercaire for a wide number of applications, including shopping malls, casinos, restaurants, auction houses, and nightclubs. The company also customized applications

to include product packaging.

Public outcries over the ethical implications of Commercaire, however, forced EAT to quickly pull the product off the market.

Dr. Rachel Haliburton, bioethics professor at Laurentian, says society is not asking deep enough questions about the kinds of products being developed for market. The idea of being secretly gassed to feel a certain way is one that she finds deeply troubling.

"Autonomy has become our biggest moral principle, and one of the most obvious violations of autonomy is manipulation," Haliburton said. "This isn't like an advertisement, where you can say 'okay, I'm watching an ad,' this is creepy because you're completely unaware."

Nigel Malkin, EAT's Director of Development, however, sees the ethical issues raised by the product as negligible. He argued Commercaire is acceptable because it "doesn't cause consumers to get into a spending frenzy so much as it causes them to feel more at ease in an environment and more receptive to sales messages."

He also said that Commercaire didn't require FDA or EPA approval because the pheromone "is a compound naturally produced by humans."

His statement, however, did not allay the fears of critics. Aside from the problems she had with

the subconscious manipulation of feelings, Haliburton noted other dangers associated with Commercaire.

If used in a bar or nightclub, for example, it could override a person's natural instincts and cause them to feel safe with a person of whom they might otherwise be wary. Also, casino use could hamper a person's ability to know when to stop, and possibly lead to an increase in gambling addictions.

However, there are less dangerous uses for a product like Commercaire. A pheromone that creates feelings of safety and comfort could be an effective way to relieve stress or treat anxiety disorders.

Haliburton notes, however, that EAT chose profit over benefit.

"Science is not a completely neutral, objective thing," she said. "Choices are made as to what will be developed. The choice to go one way or another is one that involves thinking that is not necessarily scientific."

Without philosophical questioning of the choices being made, the next time you walk out of your favourite store with bag in hand, you may have to stop and ask yourself whether it really was you that decided to buy.

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**NORTHERN ONTARIO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
INFORMATION WORKSHOP:**

The Admissions Committee is sponsoring two workshops in September for Prospective Medical School students. These workshops will be run by staff of the Admissions and Student Affairs Office.

These workshops will discuss: the minimum requirements, the application process and interviews.

Laurentian University Workshop

Thursday, September 9, 2004, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
The Senate Chambers, 11th floor R.D. Parker building
Laurentian University, Sudbury

Lakehead University Workshop

Monday, September 13, 2004, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Conference Room A, Bartley Residence
Lakehead University, Thunder Bay

Tuition hikes eating into food budgets

BY AGNES GULBINOWICZ
CANADIAN UNIVERSITY PRESS

The starving student is much more than a tired cliché, say two national advocacy groups.

The results of a survey released by the Canadian Association of Food Banks and the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations suggest there is a strong link between rising tuition costs and an increase in the use of campus food banks.

Forty-six of the fifty-one campuses across the country that house student food banks responded to the Campus Hunger Count 2004 survey.

Ninety per cent of respondents cited the rising costs of post-secondary education as the reason a food bank was opened on their campus. The survey also found the average year student food banks began operating was 1996, halfway through the 1991-2001 decade, which saw a 135.4 per cent hike in tuition fees across Canada. The tuition increases corresponded to the federal government's unprecedented cuts to social programs, including post-secondary education.

"We strongly believe that the rise in campus-based food banks is the result of a crisis in the

funding of post-secondary education, and it is an issue that must be addressed by whichever party forms the government on June 28," said Charles Seiden, CAFB executive director, in a press release.

Negar Behmardi, coordinator of the Simon Fraser University Food Bank, agrees.

"I believe if the federal government puts more money into post secondary education, then we might be able to decrease the number of food bank users," Behmardi said.

Since joining the SFU Food Bank in 2001, Behmardi has seen a dramatic rise in the number of students using the food bank's services.

In 2002, the year of the first 30 per cent fee increase at SFU since the B.C. government ended a tuition freeze, the number of users jumped from 333 to 738.

"As tuition fees increase, so does the need for the food bank," Behmardi said.

But increased tuition costs are not the only factor contributing to student hunger; a lack of financial support is compounding the problem. The survey found 80 per cent of student food bank users support themselves through loans and jobs, suggesting loan sizes are inadequate to meet

students' most basic needs.

According to the Canada Student Loans Program, the average undergraduate student receiving maximum loan amounts has \$3,500 of unmet need. This figure rises to \$6,500 for master's students.

Although the situation is dire, it seems to be improving. In 2003, students made up 3.4 per cent of all food bank clients in Canada, down sharply from 9.6 per cent the year before. The same year at SFU, the number of food bank clients decreased to 527.

But the CASA and the CAFB warn that the lower figures do not necessarily reflect a more positive reality. There is a strong possibility that students who are most likely to use food banks are simply being left out of the post-secondary system due to the ever-increasing costs.

Both groups are urging the federal government to increase post-secondary education funding by \$3.9 billion annually to reduce the burden of university operations costs passed on to students. The organisations are calling for a restoration of funding to pre-1995 levels, before the unprecedented cuts to transfer payments to the provinces for social programs were made.

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